



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat Happenings

2010
March/April

What is keeping you inside?

This time of year, many of us are itching to get out of the closed in spaces of our houses and meet the world again. We make dates to meet up with friends to catch up on what happened when we "couldn't" get out and about.

How many of us make a date to catch up with nature? What has been happening outside while we were enjoying hot cocoa and roaring fires? Has our favorite tree lost some branches due to heavy snowfall? Some things happened under the snow blanket that fell, others things are just starting to change as spring is expected with every slightly warmer day.

Have you been out to the local creek to hear it gurgling happily? Have you checked the local hangout for migrating birds to see who's who among the recent arrivals? Have you ventured out to a secret location and quietly listened to the awakening of nature?

These things are normal things, small changes that occur every year. What value could be added to your day, if you spent time catching up with nature! The change in nature may be slow and small, but the change in our moods, our attitudes, our energy levels, and our lives is much larger, much stronger, and too wondrous to miss.

So, make a date. Mark it on the calendar. Dress accordingly and **GET OUTSIDE**. Nature is waiting!

—Alane Dubbert, Naturalist



Volunteer Lobby Exhibit

~March/April~

The following **VOLUNTEER** Naturalists were recognized recently for their contributions to the programs at Runge. Please congratulate them the next time you see them.

100 hours – Hollie Burrows and Hannah Schefus
200 hours – Cassie Kennedy, Linda Tremain
300 hours – Becca Harbison and Judy Helming
2500 hours – Karen Dunkle



*Celebrating
People in
Action*

**National Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 18–24**

People in Action is an appropriate theme for Runge volunteers. We have 57 **active** volunteers.

They are **active** in...

- Leading Nature's Needlers, Hiking Clubs, Wilderness Walks, Story Tree, Little Acorns, and Scout programs.
- Offering programs on map and compass, papermaking, backpacking, worm composting, and other interesting topics.
- Assisting with Conservation Kids Club and Teen Club.
- Working events in and around Jefferson City with activities and exhibits.
- Greeting and helping you when you come to Runge.

They make us look good! Say HI and THANK-YOU to the next volunteer you see at Runge, but be quick about it – they're **active**!

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Wildflower Photography by Denny Hawes-Davis

Denny Hawes-Davis, dedicated photographer, enjoys walking through Missouri's diverse landscapes in search of native wildflowers. He eloquently captures the flowers' amazing colors and structures through a perspective of magnification. This display will leave you in awe.

New!

Nature Center

HOURS

effective March 1st

BUILDING HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday

Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursdays until 8 p.m.

Sunday and Monday

Building Closed

TRAIL HOURS

Open Daily

6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

GET OUTSIDE

**Explore the outdoors for
the following flowers.**

March - Harbinger of spring, Spring beauty, Bloodroot, Pussytoes, Dutchman's breeches, Rose verbena

April - Tickseed coreopsis, Shooting star, Jacob's ladder, Wild hyacinth, Wake robin, Columbine, Wild geranium, Fire pink, Crested iris, Toothwort, Virginia bluebells, Celandine poppy

Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to **Conservation Kids' Club**, a fun club created for kids 6 through 12 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

When you make your reservation (573/526-5544), please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

Knee Deep in Winter Weeds and Wildflowers

Tuesday, March 16– 6:30-8:00PM (Make your reservation between March 1 and March 12.)

Discover how winter weeds are beautiful wildflowers all year round.

- Create a snow bouquet.
- Take a winter weed walk using a loupe.
- Make a biodegradable newspaper pot.
- Dig in the dirt, and plant your winter seed.

Be Kind to our Earth: Dee Ban - Autoharp Musician

Tuesday, April 20– 6:30-8:00PM (Make your reservation between April 1 and April 16.)

“Be kind to our earth” program will be presented by Dee Ban, folk musician. Songs, scientific facts, and recycling advice are all aimed at teaching children to care for the planet. This is a very popular program and excites kids to do their part. Come celebrate Earth Day at Conservation Kids' Club.

Update!



The symbolic butterflies have landed in Mexico! Remember our “Monarch Magic” program in September 2009? If you made a symbolic “paper” butterfly, they arrived in Ocampo, Michoacan in mid January to a 1st grade class.

Go to the following website address and type **Runge** in the search engine box. http://www.learner.org/jnorth/sm/Gallery_Escuelas_2009_2010.html Take a tour with Estela and Melita as they deliver your Symbolic Monarchs to the children in the Monarch Sanctuary area. Visit the schools using the large gallery of photographs. You will get a peek at the many and varied schools where your butterflies have landed. Look closely and you will learn many things about school and life for the children of Mexico. Enjoy!

Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for **siblings** of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, March 16th and Tuesday, April 20th**. Parents, please **limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.**

For the little ones



Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods *We're back!*

Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Little Acorns PLUS *We're back!*

If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The woods program **AND** one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you! This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide the ages of your children.**

March

Call 573/526-5544 on or after March 1st to make your reservation.

Nature Stories

Bring your imagination as we enter the world of nature stories. Discover otters, salamanders, frogs, and more to spark the world of nature exploration. Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods

Wednesday, March 3 – 10:00AM
Thursday, March 11 – 10:00AM
Tuesday, March 30 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

Tuesday, March 23 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns PLUS

Saturday, March 6 – 10:00AM
Thursday, March 25 – 1:00PM



April

Call 573/526-5544 on or after April 1st to make your reservation.

Sensory Safari

Let's go outside! We will take a "safari" at the nature center this month and let the wonders of spring touch us through all of our senses. Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods

Tuesday, April 6 – 10:00AM
Thursday, April 15 – 10:00AM
Wednesday, April 21 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

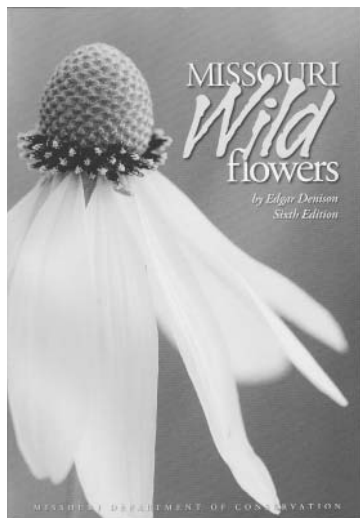
Saturday, April 10 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns PLUS

Friday, April 9 – 1:00PM
Friday, April 16 – 10:00AM

Nature Shop News

March/April featured item



20% OFF

If you are a devotee of the state's native plants, you'll love this book. Colored tabs have been added to the page edges for easier location of flower color groups. Descriptions cover plant characteristics, habitat and range.

Discounted Price:

\$9.60

Heritage card discount does not apply.

GET OUTSIDE

Did you know that trout fishing begins at trout parks on March 1st? Be there for the opening bell!

Visit mdc.mo.gov/trout/7248 to learn more about the state's four trout parks, 120 miles of spring-fed cold water managed trout streams, urban lakes, and Lake Taneycomo.



Survey Says...

Thanks to all of you who provided input over the past year as we conducted exit user-group surveys at the nature center. This information will help guide our planning for the next 5-10 years. Of course, we are always interested in what you have to say so feel free to provide comments at any time. Just stop by the front desk or call the manager, Kathy Cavender, at 573/526-5544 x3407.



Scout Packs!

Runge Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Alane at 573/526-5544 ext 3409 for more information or to reserve one of the following scout packs.

Girl Scouts:

Brownie: Animals Try-It
Plants Try-It

Boy Scouts:

Wolf Cub: Elective #13 - Birds

Bear Cub: Achievement #5 - Sharing Your World with Wildlife

Webelos: Naturalist & Forester Pack(s) Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirements.

2009-2010 Seedling Order Form

George O. White State Forest Nursery, near Licking, offers Missouri residents a variety of seedlings for reforestation, windbreaks, erosion control, as well as wildlife food and cover.

To order trees on-line, check out their web site at www.missouri_conservation.org/forest/nursery or stop by the nature center.

March Events

To make a reservation, call after **8:00 AM** on **March 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

11 Thursday 7:00-8:00PM

Development of Adrian's Island

Ages: Adults

Jefferson City Parks and Recreation staff will present a program on plans for the development of Adrian's Island as a future park, wildlife habitat, and recreation area. The island, long-discussed but never developed, has come into discussion as a future city recreation area. The potential of this area to serve as biking and hiking trails and wildlife habitat will be discussed. Come join us for our program, and stay for a brief chapter meeting after the program. Sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

13 Saturday 8:00AM-5:00PM

Teen Club: Hiking

Ages: 12-17 years

A-hiking we will go! Meet at Runge for a short introduction before we load up in the vans and drive to Ha-Ha Tonka State Park near the Lake of the Ozarks. There we will explore and hike a variety of trails. Be prepared to hike approximately 7 miles. Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Stuff a lunch, water bottle, and rain gear in a small backpack and dress for the weather. Make sure your parent/guardian comes in with you that morning and fills out the permission form to go off-site with us. Reservations required and space is limited.

13 Saturday 10:00AM-2:00PM

Scout Tables: Endangered Species

Ages: All

Attention scouts and scout leaders! Here is a perfect chance to work on badge achievements. Through this self-guided exhibit you will learn all about endangered species in Missouri. Discover what happened to those no longer here and what you can do for the future. No reservations required.

Bear Cub Scouts—Sharing Your World With Wildlife: Achievement #5e.

Brownies—What's Out There: Eco-explorer #5.

Junior Girl Scouts—Let's Go Outdoors: Wildlife #6.

18 Thursday 10:30AM-Noon
or 6:00-7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Ages: 18 years and older

In the third month of "What's in our Backyard" series, we look closer at habitats and what is needed for birds to successfully raise their young in an urban setting. We will look at bird houses, types of birds that might use them, and create a related patchwork block. Reservations required.

18 Thursday 6:00-7:30PM

Woodcock Walk

Ages: 8 years and older

Peent, peeeent. What is that strange sound? It's a bird called a woodcock and they are calling now! This evening learn about the mysterious American woodcock and take a walk outside to listen to their calls. Dress for the weather. No reservations required.

20 Saturday 8:00AM-Noon

The Runge Hiking Club

Ages: 18 years and older

Learn about our wondrous state! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

Rudolf Bennitt Conservation Area

is 3,515 acres of forested, rolling terrain. We'll hike the **Moniteau Wilderness Trail** (10 miles, ***), which will take us through savannahs, white-oak forests, prairie, and next to 48-acre Rudolf Bennitt Lake. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

20 Saturday 10:00AM

Story Tree

Ages: All

As March winds blow

And spring rains fall

Join us for adventure

*Under the leaves of the
Story Tree.*

This is an informal story time for families with young children. No reservations required.

24 Wednesday 8:00AM-5:30PM

Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

Van Meter State Park, north of

Marshall, MO is this month's destination.

We plan to hike the **Loess Hills Trail** (2 miles, ***) named for the windblown glacial dust that produces immense trees and the **Old Fort Trail** (2 miles, ***) where the hike will take us over mysterious earthworks thought to predate the Missouri Indians.

Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

25 Thursday 6:30-7:30PM

Spring Flower Stories

Ages: Adults

Let's explore and learn some of the secrets of spring flowers through stories and folklore. Reservations required.

27 Saturday 10:00AM-3:00PM

6th Annual Native Plant Sale

Ages: All

Stop by and purchase beautiful and hardy flowers, shrubs, and trees from Missouri vendors. This year's focus is on the natural community-savannas. No reservations required.

Indoor and outdoor activities

- Private Land Conservationists available to answer questions about your property, regardless of the size.
- Pollinators and Wildflower Exhibit
- Fire Tower "Savanna" Tours at 11AM, 1PM, and 2PM
- Make a newspaper pot, plant a wildflower seed activity.
- Learn about savanna animals and plants.

Vendors

- Forrest Keeling Nursery
- Missouri Wildflowers
- Pleasant View Landscaping
- Prairie Hill Farm Greenhouse

April Events

To make a reservation, call after **8:00AM** on **April 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

8Thursday 6:30–7:30PM

Spring Symphony

Ages: 8 years and older

Peeps, croaks, and chirps. Welcome to the sounds of spring. Tonight we will head to the ponds to listen as the frogs are waking up. Dress for the weather. No reservations required.

9Friday 2:00–3:30PM

Homeschool: Endangered Species

Ages: 12 years and older

Hellbenders, bladderpods, bald eagles, and river otters...what do these all have in common? Find out more about Missouri's endangered species as well as some wildlife success stories. Learn what can happen when people take action. Reservations required.

15Thursday 10:30AM–Noon
or 6:00–7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Ages: 18 years and older

In the fourth month of "What's in our Backyard" series, we welcome spring with flowers and hummingbirds. Join us as we learn more about these "flying jewels" and create a patchwork block to add to the series. Reservations required.

17Saturday 8:00AM–5:00PM

The Runge Hiking Club

Ages: 18 years and older

Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area is in Maries County, approximately 10 miles southeast of Vienna. Within this conservation area is the 692-acre Spring Creek Gap Glades Natural Area. Spring wildflowers are abundant on the area, bird watching is excellent, and the variety of natural communities makes this a truly scenic place. Hiking will be on area access trails (6 miles, *****) which periodically cross an intermittent stream. This is a difficult trail for the hardest hikers, come prepared. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

17Saturday 2:00PM

Story Tree

Ages: All

*As March winds blow
And spring rains fall
Join us for adventure
Under the leaves of the
Story Tree*

This is an informal story time for families with young children. No reservations required.

21Wednesday 7:30AM–5:30PM

Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

This month we will be going to **Cedar Creek District**, which lies between Ashland, Columbia, and Fulton. It is the only district of the Mark Twain National Forest north of the Missouri River. Come with us to the **Moon Loop Trail**, southeast of Deer Park (7 miles, ****) to hike through oak hickory forests, old fields, and bluffs. We'll also cross Stump Creek and Big Branch, two of Cedar Creek's many tributaries. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

22Thursday 6:00–8:00PM

Amazing Race! Discover Nature Families

Ages: Families with children 7 and older

Join us as we learn how to find the right path to outdoor fun. This program will start with the basics of map and compass before the families head onto (and off of) Runge's trails. Everyone will reach the same final destination, but who will get their first? Dress for the weather and for off-trail hiking. Reservations required.

23Friday 10:00AM–3:00PM

Earth Day

Ages: All

Location: State Capitol Complex, Jefferson City

Come see what awaits you at this year's Earth Day celebration. Stop by our exhibit. The event is hosted by the Department of Natural Resources. No reservations required.

24Saturday 10:00AM–3:00PM

Discovery Table: Celebrating the Earth

Ages: All

April is the month to celebrate Mother Earth and all she has to offer. Visit Runge to learn more about Earth Day through self-guided displays, children's crafts, and movies. No reservations required.

Taking reservations beginning April 1st for this program.

May 1Saturday 8:00AM–2:00PM

Wilderness Walk

Ages: 18 years and older

The goal of this program is to leisurely explore, identify, and thoroughly enjoy nature's beautiful surrounds. Meet at the nature center and car pool to the location. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and the interpretive program. The third of our four seasonal walks will take place at **Three Creeks Conservation Area** (3-4 miles, ****).

We will focus on wildflower identification, discuss local geology, and identify and age fossils. Bring your lunch, water, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Trail rating system

- *Easiest trail (flat terrain with no obstructions)
- **Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
- ***Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
- ****Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
- *****Most difficult (significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks)



Habitat Happenings

Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274



6th Annual **Native Plant Sale**

**March 27
10am - 3pm**

Welcome to our annual **NATIVE PLANT SALE**. Stop by and purchase beautiful and hardy flowers, trees, and shrubs from Missouri vendors. This year's natural community focus is the savanna.

Vendors:

Forrest Keeling Nursery
Missouri Wildflowers
Pleasant View Landscaping
Prairie Hill Farm Greenhouse

Refer to Calendar of Events for activities.